Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Currently Amended) An online trading system comprising:

sale receiving means for receiving submission for sale of an article from a seller terminal;

information inputting means for inputting information of the article;

information storing means for storing the information of the article input from said information inputting means;

auction selecting means for selecting an auction at which the article is to be auctioned;

information showing means for showing the information of the article to public via communicating means;

prior bid receiving means for receiving a bid for the article via the communicating means;

bid submission receiving means for receiving bid submission for the article at the auction; and

successful bid determining means for determining a successful bid based on the information received by said prior bid receiving means and the information received by said bid submission receiving means.

4   (Currently Amended) An online trading system according to claim 3, wherein said successful bid determining means compares ~~the bid submission of the~~a highest price received by said prior bid receiving means with ~~the bid submission of the~~a highest price received by said bid submission receiving means, and determines that the article is sold at a higher price of the two submissions.

5.   (Previously Amended) An online trading system according to claim 3, further comprising:

unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up, wherein, if the article is to be sold to a bid submission received by said prior bid receiving means, said successful bid determining means determines a successful bid price by adding the unit price to the highest price of the bid submission received by said bid submission receiving means.

6.   (Currently Amended) An online trading system according to claim 3, further comprising:

unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up; and

starting price storing means for storing a starting price of the auction,

wherein, if there is no bid submission ~~at the auction~~<u>to the bid submission receiving means</u>, but a bid submission is ~~received via the communicating means~~<u>made to the prior bid receiving means</u>, said successful bid determining means determines a successful bid price by adding the unit price to the starting price.

7-9.   (Cancelled).

10.   (New) An online trading system according to claim 4, further comprising:

unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up, wherein, if the article it to be sold to a bid submission received by said prior bid receiving means, said successful bid determining means determines a successful bid price by adding the unit price to the highest price of the bid submission received by said bid submission receiving means.

11.   (New) An online trading system according to claim 4, further comprising:

unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up; and

starting price storing means for storing a starting price of the auction;

wherein, if there is no bid submission to the bid submission receiving means but a submission is made to the prior bid receiving means, said successful bid determining means determines a successful bid price by adding the unit price to the starting price.